In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

generating structured meta-data providing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of each of a first entity and at least one other entity, said entities seeking to communicate across a network, wherein an interface of the first entity has at least one differing characteristic from an interface of the second entity;

collating the at least one semantic information elements of said first entity ~~where possible~~ with the corresponding at least one semantic information elements of said at least one other entity;

at run-time, ~~automatically~~ analysing the at least one pair of said collated semantic information elements to establish the extent to which the interface capabilities of said entities are compatible; and

automatically generating in accordance with said established compatibility an adaptive software interface for said entities, such that the entities are able to communicate despite the fact that the interface capabilities of the entities are different.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of collating occurs dynamically during a preliminary exchange between the two entities prior to an interface being established between the two entities.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said structured meta-data includes associated meta-data for at least one said semantic information element.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the semantic information element describing the characteristics of said adaptive interface is provided in said meta-data in a form independent of the version of software used to generate said metadata.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said semantic information element is generated by a compiler receiving input data from an interface description and a code template.

6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said interface description includes a model of the data to be communicated across the interface and a code template.

7. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said semantic information element provided by said meta-data has a form which can be mapped to an appropriate transport layer and exchanged between said entities prior to a higher level interface being established between said entities.

8. (Currently amended) A method of determining at least one behavioural characteristic of a first entity in a relationship with at least one other entity, the entities seeking to communicate across a network, wherein an interface the first entity has at least one differing characteristic from an interface of the at least one other entity, the method comprising the steps of:

generating meta-data providing a structure containing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of the first entity;

generating meta-data providing a structure containing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of the at least one other entity;

collating the at least one semantic information elements of the first entity with the at least one semantic information elements of the at least one other entity;

at run-time, ~~automatically~~ analysing ~~each~~ the pair of collated semantic information elements to determine at least one behavioural characteristic of the first entity in the relationship.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the meta-data structure is provided in a form suitable for indicating at least one semantic element taken from the group including: a description, a range, a default value.

10-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) A method of establishing a compatible interface between an initiator entity and a responder entity seeking to communicate across a network in the case where an interface of the initiator has at least one differing characteristic from an interface of the responder comprising the steps of

generating at least one meta-data structure providing at least one semantic information element for each entity, wherein each said semantic information element describes a characteristic of an interface capability of one of said entities;

collating said meta-data structures such that ~~each~~ the at least one semantic information element corresponding to the initiator's interface capability is collated with a the corresponding at least one semantic information element corresponding the responder's interface capability;

at run-time, ~~automatically~~ analysing the collated pair of semantic information elements to determine the extent to which the initiator and the responder can generate a compatible interface;

automatically establishing in accordance with said analysis an interface between said initiator and said responder which enables them to communicate across the network despite the fact that the interface capabilities of the entities are different.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently amended) A computer system programmed to operate in accordance with a program comprising a plurality of instructions that, if executed by a physical computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method of generating an adaptive software interface for a first entity and at least one other entity seeking to

communicate across a network, wherein an interface of the first entity has at least one differing characteristic from an interface of the second entity, the method comprising:

generating, using a physical computing device, structured meta-data providing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of each said entity;

collating, using a physical computing device, the at least one semantic information elements of said first entity with ~~those~~ the corresponding at least one semantic information elements of said at least one other entity; and

at run-time, ~~automatically~~ analysing, using a physical computing device, said collated semantic information elements to establish the extent to which the interface capabilities of said entities are compatible and

automatically generating, using a physical computing device, in accordance with said established compatibility the adaptive software interface for the two entities, such that the entities are able to communicate despite the fact that the interface capabilities of the entities are different.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) A network including a computer system as claimed in claim 20.

23-26. (cancelled)